

## ACTRESS KILLED; HER COMPANIONS ESCAPE IN CAB

Gussie Hart, the Famous  
Topsy, Dies as Re-  
sult of a Fall.

### CARRIED TO HER HOME

Was Making Slumming Tour  
of the Negro Resorts  
in the Tenderloin.

Gussie Hart, a well-known actress, while slumming with Blanche Leighton, leading woman of the Russell Brothers Company, and Edward Murphy, a theatrical dancing master, of No. 25 West Thirty-fourth street, met her death in a mysterious manner to-day by plunging down a precipitous stairway in what the Tenderloin calls a "black-and-tan honk-a-tonk" at No. 250 West Thirty-fifth street.

Catherine Annie Ward, the daughter of the dead woman, died in a mysterious manner in the Metropolitan Hotel, on Grand street, fifteen years ago. She had gone to the hotel with Jack McKauliffe, then the champion light-weight of the world. She was found dead in bed, and the prize-fighter was detained by the police, but afterward exonerated. The mysterious death of the mother is being investigated by the police as a probable murder, though her companions at the time she received her mortal injuries declare that the killing was purely accidental.

**Skull Crushed by Fall.**  
The woman's skull was crushed in by her fall, and her companions rushed in a cab to her home at No. 251 West Thirty-eighth street. Murphy and Blanche Leighton were the occupants of the cab.

The upper floors of the Thirty-fifth street house are occupied by a theatrical boarding-house, run by Mrs. May Clark.

The door to the room was locked and the cabman threw his shoulders against it, forcing it open.

The couple then ran to the office of Dr. Armstrong, No. 253 West Thirty-ninth street.

"I want you as quickly as I can get you," the man told the physician. He told Dr. Armstrong that he would be paid for his work.

When the physician arrived at the house he examined the woman and called out: "This woman is dead."

There was a hurrying of feet on the stairs, and the two men and women, running behind the cabman, reached the street, leaped into the cab and drove away.

Dr. Armstrong first notified an undertaker in the neighborhood, that the woman was dead. The undertaker an hour later, notified the Coroner's Office, and then the police of the West Thirty-seventh street station were told through Headquarters. When Policeman McMahon arrived at the theatrical boarding-house he could get no information from any one. He was joined by Coroner Dooley, and later by Police Captain Ward and Detective Brinkley.

**Man in a Collapse.**  
Murphy, the dancing-master, was located through the advice of James Montague, of No. 242 West Sixty-second street, a waiter engaged at the "Little Savoy," as the concern is called, on West Thirty-fifth street is known. He was arrested by Capt. Dennis Ward, of the West Thirty-seventh street station, and taken to the West Side Court, where he was remanded for the Coroner.

The man was in a state of nervous collapse when Capt. Ward found him. He was so weak and shaky that the policeman hired a cab and drove him to the station house. In the course of the ride he told this story.

Last night he had escorted Gussie Hart and Blanche Leighton on a slumming expedition, taking in all the honk-a-tonks and colored dives in the Tenderloin. They arrived at the "Little Savoy" after midnight and had several drinks while they listened to the music and watched the dancing. In leaving the place they passed a stairway well that dropped almost sheer to the cement cellar floor. The woman, who was at the head of the stairs and fell headlong to the bottom, striking on the back of her head and receiving a compound fracture at the base of the skull.

**A Famous Topsy.**  
Murphy and Miss Leighton ran out and called Montague, the waiter. He assisted Murphy in carrying the unconscious woman from the cellar and placing her in the cab.

The dancing master said that when he saw that the woman was dying he became frightened and fled with Miss Leighton from the boarding-house where they had carried the expiring woman.

When the man arrived at the desk in the West Thirty-seventh street station he was barely able to give his pedigree, when he collapsed and fell fainting to the floor. He was revived with some difficulty, and when he had recovered his strength, was taken to the West Side Court. Meanwhile, detectives had been sent out to find Blanche Leighton.

Gussie Hart was the leading woman in William Brady's big "Uncle Tom's Cabin" production five years ago, and for the past few years she had played the

## LEADER MURPHY HAS RATHER LONESOME TIME AT ANAWANDA CLUB BALL

'Regrets' Included Those  
of Mayor McClellan  
and Others.

### HANDSHAKING AFFAIR.

Women Outnumber Men in  
Ratio of 2 to 1 Among  
5,000 Who Attended.

Fully five thousand persons went to the Lexington Avenue Opera-House last night to attend the annual ball of the Anawanda Club, of the Eighteenth Assembly District, and, of course, the star attraction was C. Francis Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall. Most of the five thousand at the ball were women. The fair sex predominated at the ratio of at least two to one, if not more.

Of the thirty-five district leaders in the city seven were not represented. The Mayor was not at the ball. Neither was Fire Commissioner O'Brien, nor the Mayor's secretary, William A. Wright. The Mayor, however, had a box that he paid \$100 for several weeks ago, before the breach between him and the leader had broadened to the proportions of to-day. The box was occupied by Health Commissioner Darlington, who announced that he was there to represent His Honor.

If all the prominent politicians in town were not present, the fact remains that the whole Gas House district, where C. Francis lives, including men, women and children, were there.

### Biggest Murphy Turnout.

It was the biggest turnout that Murphy has ever had at the Anawanda ball, but it was not as merry as in the old days, before he and the Mayor crossed swords for supremacy. There was a frost in the air among the politicians as they greeted the leader in the gallery.

While C. Francis was shaking hands with his social censor and prompter, J. Sergeant Cram, and his bride, Supreme Court Justice Gieglersch came along. Justice Gieglersch recently had to pass on the Hearst application for the reopening of the ballot-boxes. Whether that fact had anything to do with the incident that followed the Judge's approach or not was a matter of conjecture among those who were standing near by.

"I want over to pay a call at the box occupied by your party and you were not there," C. Francis said, addressing Mrs. Cram as he shook her hand. The Judge moved closer.

"You were not there," the leader repeated, and again he said "I went over and you were not there."

C. Francis repeated the phrase in the manner of one who did not know what else to say while caught in an embarrassing situation.

Then, taking Mrs. Cram by the arm, leading role in the "Child Wife," a road production. Recently she had been rehearsing for another "Uncle Tom's Cabin" tour. She has been considered for many years the best Topsy on the American stage.

Montague, the waiter, corroborated Murphy's story, so far as his carrying the injured woman from the cellar to the cab.

**Hand-Shakers Lined Up.**  
A little later C. Francis came back to the spot that he had deserted and there held an informal reception. The leaders and prominent persons who lined up to shake hands and have a few words were:

Gene McGuire, Mike Garvin, representing Louis Haffen, of the Bronx; James J. Gaffney, Florio Sullivan, Mike Blake, "Battie Dan," Finn, P. Ryder, John P. A. Shearn, J. J. Keaton, F. J. Goodwin, Julius Harburger, Commissioner William Dalton, Chamberlain Patrick J. Keenan, Tim Hurst, J. J. Hagan, Superintendent of Sewers; Magistrate Mayo, "Little Tim" Sullivan, one "Big Fellow" was not there.

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Preceding the ball was a vaudeville show. The grand march was led by Pat Walsh, Judge Newburger's secretary, and his sister Alice. Mr. Murgras did not take part in the opening march. Neither did the other prominent politicians.

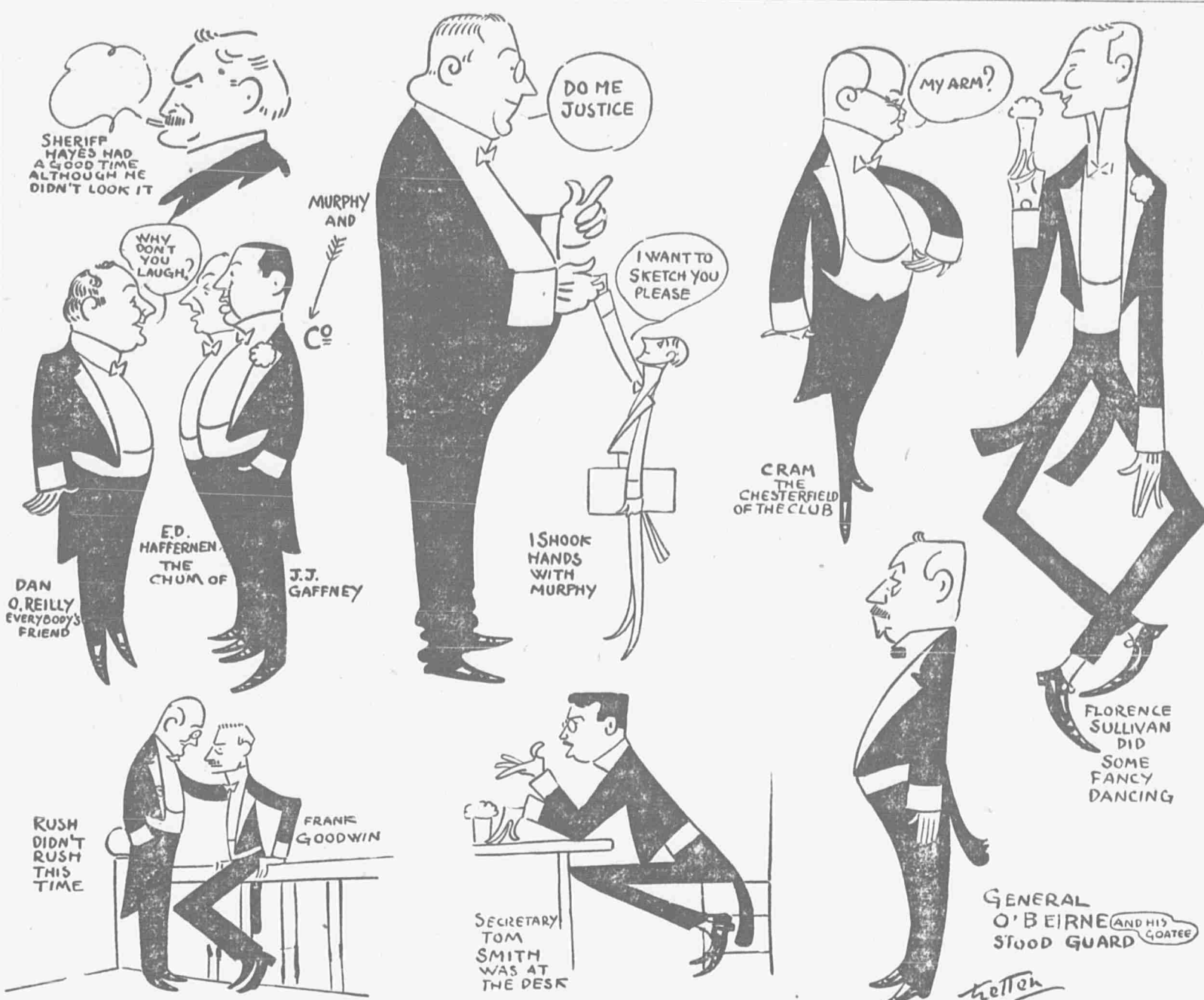
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"It is the best ball that we have ever held," C. Francis said, as he adjusted his glasses. "I am glad that the ladies stood by me. No, the mayor is not here. I understand that he has a severe cold. Everybody seems to be having a good time, and I am certainly enjoying myself. The Eighteenth is well represented. Everybody I know seems to be here."

During one of the lulls in the hand-shaking Artist Kettner, of the Evening World staff, was introduced to C. Francis.

"I'll try to give it to you straight," said Kettner.

And he did.



SKETCHED BY MAURICE KETTEN.

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## H.O'Neill & Co

**Women's New Suits for Early Spring Wear—Special**  
Women's New Suits—two models in Spring gray mixtures, Harrow and Pony shapes, handsomely trimmed. Value \$16.00 each; special at } 12.00

**Closing Sale of a Number of Women's Broadcloth and Velvet Suits.**  
Broadcloth and velvet Suits, long and short models, finest materials in the season's best styles.  
Heretofore \$30.00 and \$35.00, at 15.00  
Heretofore \$40.00 and \$55.00, at 25.00  
On sale Friday morning at 9 o'clock and until sold.

**New Covert Coats—Special.**  
Four new models in Women's Covert Coats, finely tailored with straps, &c., silk lined. Value \$10.00 each, at } 6.75

**A Number of Evening Coats.**  
In choice colors of Broadcloth, richly embroidered and trimmed, lined with Peau de Soie.  
Heretofore \$50.00, at 25.00  
Heretofore \$75.00, at 35.00  
(Third Floor.)

**Wednesday, February 21st, Special Sale of Corsets.**  
**W. B. New Spring Model—Made expressly for us; long hip, nicely trimmed with lace—regular price \$1.25; special at } 79c**  
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(Second Floor.)

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Partly made Shirt Waist Patterns, embroidered lawn and batiste, finished with medallions and Val. lace, with separate half cuffs for short sleeves—value \$3.00, at 1.75  
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Value... 2.50 3.50 4.00 4.75  
2.00 2.50 2.95 3.25  
Handkerchief Irish Linen, Swiss and Japanese hand-embroidered Waist Patterns, 4.50 to 15.00  
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**Wednesday, February 21st Sale of Feather Boas**  
MARABOUT SCARFS—in black, white, natural } 3.25  
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white, gray, black and natural—value \$9.98, at }  
Complete line of Marabout, Coque and Ostrich Boas, \$2.98 to \$50.00.  
(Trimming Department.)

**Merino Underwear and Hosiery**  
**For Women—Now on Second Floor**  
**Hosiery.**  
Women's pure black Silk Stockings, with silk or cotton soles—values up to \$1.35 and \$1.50, at } 1.00  
Pure Silk Stockings—neatly embroidered instep—value \$3.00, at } 2.50  
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**Underwear.**  
Women's jersey ribbed Umbrella Drawers—splendid value at 3 for \$1.00; pair } 35c  
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

**Wash Dress Fabrics**  
UNUSUAL VALUES  
3,000 yards IMPORTED WHITE DIMITY, neat checks and stripes. Regularly 35c., 25c. yard  
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**Broadway & 19th Street**